

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Thomas John Nelson

Serial No.:

Filing Date:

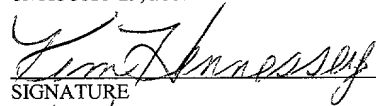
Title: **"Interconnecting Disengageable  
Flooring System"**

§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§  
§

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Docket No.: P1062P2P1

<p>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL</p> <p>PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE, IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO:</p> <p>HONORABLE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS BOX PATENT APPLICATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231</p> <p>ON AUGUST 29, 2001.</p> <p> SIGNATURE</p> <p><u>8/29/01</u>      <u>EL477811350US</u> DATE      EXPRESS MAIL LABEL</p>	
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Applicants hereby submit a Preliminary Amendment for the above-referenced Patent Application. As this Preliminary Amendment is being filed contemporaneously with the filing of the above-referenced Patent Application, it is therefor considered timely filed.

FILED "0054660"

## AMENDMENTS

### **In The Description:**

Please add the following language on page 2 of the application:

#### **"DIVISIONAL STATEMENT**

This is a divisional of Application Serial No. 09/436,317 filed November 8, 1999."

The following is a clean version of the Divisional Statement and preprinted here for the convenience of the Examiner.

This is a divisional of Application Serial No. 09/436,317 filed November 8, 1999.

### **In The Claims:**

Cancel claims 1 – 47 and 59 - 62, without prejudice.

The following is a clean version of all pending claims of the present application under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(3) and preprinted here for the convenience of the Examiner.

48. A disengageable connector for vertically and horizontally interconnecting individual flooring panels with identical edges to form a permanent or temporary laminate flooring surface on top of a support structure, said connector comprising: a base and a projection extending vertically from said base, said projection having top and bottom portions and consisting of identical right and left halves, the top portion of each half comprising

identical extensions extending horizontally in opposite directions equal distances substantially parallel to, separate from and above said base, and optionally, two additional protrusions extending vertically from said base, said two protrusions spaced apart from said projection and being located on either side of said projection.

49. The connector of claim 48 wherein the base is not designed to be in contact with the support structure upon interconnection of flooring panels.
50. The connector of claim 48 wherein the base is designed to be in contact with the support structure upon interconnection of flooring panels.
51. The connector of claim 48 wherein the protrusions vertically extend a distance less than the projection.
52. The connector of claim 48 wherein the connector is manufactured from metal.
53. The connector of claim 48 wherein the connector is manufactured from plastic.
54. The connector of claim 48 wherein the right and left halves of the projection further comprise recesses therein.
55. The connector of claim 48 wherein the base further comprises two recesses formed therein located between the protrusions and the projection.
56. The connector of claim 48 wherein said connector is an elongated track.
57. The connector of claim 48 wherein the projection extends substantially the entire length of the connector.
58. The connector of claim 48 including protrusions wherein the protrusions extend substantially the entire length of the connector.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

SUMMARY

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments set forth hereinabove be entered before substantive examination of the above-referenced application and request consideration in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone or by facsimile.

Respectfully submitted,



*R. William Beard, Jr.*

Registration No. 39.903

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

One Shell Plaza

910 Louisiana

Houston, Texas 77002-4995

Telephone: (713) 229-1176

Facsimile: (713) 229-2876

ATTORNEY OF RECORD

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8/29/01